

REMARKS

Filed concurrently herewith is a request for Two-Month Extension of Time which extends the shortened statutory period for response to December 27, 2004. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

The Examiner's action dated July 27, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully noted. In view thereof, claims 3, 5 and 8-12 have been canceled in their entirety without prejudice nor disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein and claims 1, 4, 6, 13-16 and 18-19 have been amended in order to better define that which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, and 13-19 are presently pending in the instant application.

Referring now to the Official Action and particularly page 2 thereof, claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,353,039 issued to Tsukada et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed in that the patent to Tsukada et al. neither discloses nor suggests that which is presently set forth by Applicants' claimed invention.

As can be seen from the foregoing amendments, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of previous dependent claims 3 and 5. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 as well as dependent claim 2 clearly distinguish over the teachings of Tsukada et al. with claims 8 and 9 being canceled in their entirety without prejudice nor disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein.

With reference now to paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 10-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsukada et al. In that claims 8-12 have been canceled in their entirety without prejudice nor disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein, it is respectfully submitted that further discussion with respect to the

rejections of claims 10-12 is no longer believed to be warranted. Moreover, with respect to dependent claims 13-18, these claims will be discussed in detail hereinbelow with respect to the rejection of claims 3-7 set forth in paragraph 5 of the Office Action.

With respect to paragraph 5 of the Office Action, claims 3-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsukada et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,211,831 issued to Nagy et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed in that the combination proposed by the Examiner neither discloses nor suggests that which is presently set forth by Applicants' claimed invention. As noted hereinabove, in that the subject matter of each dependent claims 3 and 5 has been included in claim 1, as amended, the rejection of Applicants' claimed invention will now be discussed in detail.

With reference to the foregoing amendments, the subject matter of each of dependent claims 3 and 5 has been included in independent claim 1 which now recites an antenna apparatus for a vehicle, specifically for a vehicle where at least a part of constituent members of the vehicle is made of an electrically non-conductive material and in the earthed conductor on a part of a vehicle body. That is, in accordance with the present invention at least one non-earthed type antenna and at least one earthed type antenna are provided to the electrically non-conductive constituent members of the vehicle. By employing the non-earthed type antenna, it is possible to improve a receiving performance of a radio wave having a short wave length and to overcome the technical problem described in detail at page 2, line 8 to page 3, line 3 of Applicants' specification. Furthermore, in accordance with Applicants' claimed invention, by adding the earthed type antenna, it is possible to receive the wider frequency band in conjunction with the non-earthed type antenna.

Further, in accordance with Applicants' claimed invention, at least a part of the coaxially line for the non-earthed type antenna, the first coaxial line, and the coaxial line for

the earthed type antenna, the second coaxial line, are provided in close proximity to one another. This improves the assembly property of both antenna on to the vehicle. In accordance with the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, the second coaxial line is structured such that the inner conductor is covered with the outer conductor at least a part of a range from the earthed portion to the third connection point. In doing so, it is possible to accurately prevent the receiving property of the antenna from being disbursed by the mounting state of the coaxial cables for respective antennas. Furthermore, it is possible to stabilize the receiving performance of the earth type antenna as noted on page 23, lines 18-21 of Applicants' specification.

With respect to the teachings of Tsukada et al., this reference merely discloses a non-earthed type antenna used as a vehicle rear window glass antenna. However, as the Examiner can readily appreciate, this reference does not disclose nor suggest the particular feature set forth in accordance with Applicants' claimed invention.

In rejecting previous dependent claims 3 and 5, the Examiner relies on the teachings of Nagy, et al. as disclosing the fact that an earthed type antenna, earthed on a vehicle body is widely used in the art. However, while this reference may disclose an earthed type antenna used as a window glass antenna, this reference clearly fails to disclose or remotely suggest that which is presently set forth by Applicants' claimed invention. Specifically, as noted hereinabove, independent claim 1 recites an antenna apparatus for a vehicle in which at least a part of constituent members of the vehicle is made of an electrically non-conductive material and an earthed conductor on a part of a vehicle body wherein at least one non-earthed type antenna and at least one earth type antenna are provided to the electrically non-conductive constituent members of the vehicle. More particularly, in accordance with the present invention, at least a part of the coaxial line for the non-earthed type antenna, that is

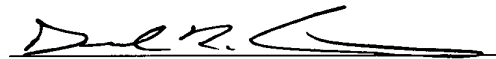
the first coaxial line and the coaxial line for the earthed type antenna, the second coaxial line are provided in close proximity to one another. Furthermore, the second coaxial line as recited in amended claim 1 is structured such that that the inner conductor is covered with the outer conductor at least a part of the range from the earthed portion to the third connection point. Clearly, these features are neither disclosed in nor suggested by the teachings of Nagy et al. Particularly, in rejecting Applicants' claimed invention, the Examiner notes col. 3, lines 7-17 and more particularly with respect to claim 5 the Examiner notes col. 3, lines 37-53 of the Nagy et al. reference. Therein the Nagy et al. reference, referring to Fig. 2, states that in addition to the center conductor 54, the cable 52 includes a coaxial arrangement of an internal dielectric layer 68, an outer shield 70 and an outer dielectric covering 72. The reference goes on to state that the outer shield is positioned flush with an edge 74 and the body panel 60 approximate opening of the shield 10. Clearly, this reference fails to disclose or suggest the specific features set forth in accordance with Applicants' claimed invention. That is, nowhere in the Nagy et al. reference nor that of Tsukada et al. is there a disclosure or remote suggestion of providing at least a part of a coaxial line for the non-earthed type antenna and the coaxial line for the earthed type antenna in a manner such that the second coaxially line is structured so that the inner conductor is covered with the outer conductor at least a part of a range from the earthed portion to the third connection point, thereby, making it possible to accurately prevent the receiving property of the antenna from being disbursed in the mounting state of the coaxial cables for the antenna. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' claimed invention as set forth in independent claim 1, as amended, distinguishes over the teachings of Tsukada et al. when taken alone or in view of the teachings of Nagy et al.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' claimed invention as set forth in independent claim 1 as well as those claims which depend therefrom clearly distinguish over the combination proposed by the Examiner and are in proper condition for allowance.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing it is respectfully requested that the rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 and 13-19 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner believe a conference would be of benefit in expediting the prosecution of the instant application, he is hereby invited to telephone counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



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